

Abstract

A routing device for forwarding data packets in a communication system includes a set of routing processors at least one interface that receives 5 and transmits data packets and a routing table manager that maintains a forwarding table of routes provided by the set of routing processors. Each routing processor is associated with a routing protocol that determines a set of routes. The routing device may also include a set of fast forward engines that forward a data packet based on the forwarding table. The routing table 10 manager may be implemented on a separate processor than each routing processor.